



# Hazardous Waste Education Fee - 2002

*Ecology Focus Sheet*

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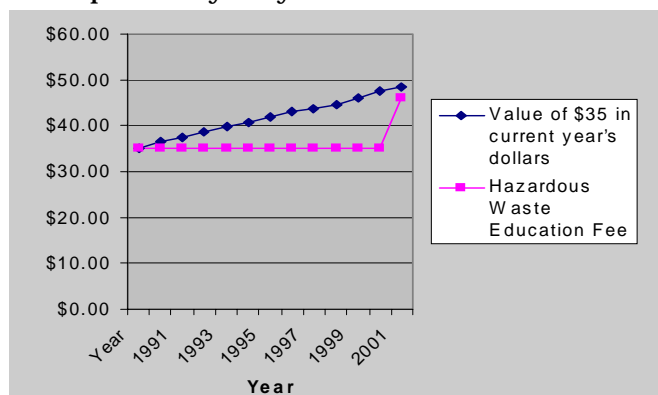
**T**he Hazardous Waste Education Fee funds programs that help businesses learn about the benefits of hazardous waste reduction and how to comply with state and federal hazardous waste regulations.

State law requires you to pay a fee (WAC 173-305-110) each year to help businesses - particularly small ones - find ways to prevent environmental pollution. During the past 11 years, a flat \$35 fee has been assessed to cover waste reduction support activities. **This year, the fee has been increased to \$46 to adjust for increased program costs, due to inflation.**

The fee pays for activities like conducting workshops, providing phone and on-site consultation services, and developing literature on pollution prevention.

## Why was the fee increased?

The law (WAC 173-305-040) allows the fee to be adjusted each year to compensate for inflation and program costs. However, for the past 11 years, the fee has remained at \$35, although program costs have risen. The fee increase will allow us to maintain our outreach program at existing levels. The following graph shows time span and yearly fee amounts assessed:



## Who pays the fee?

The Hazardous Waste Education Fee applies to businesses that generated any quantity of

hazardous waste during 2001. You received a bill because your business is classified in a business code as one that typically generates hazardous waste, **and** the value of your products, gross proceeds of sales or gross income exceeded \$12,000 in 2001.

## What is "Hazardous Waste"?

Ecology considers wastes as hazardous when they have properties that endanger human health or the environment. A regulated waste can be on a federal or state list (see WAC 173-303-081 or -082), can exhibit a federal or state characteristic (see WAC 173-303-090), or exhibit a state criteria (see WAC 173-303-100). The following list gives examples of some of these waste streams, along with the characteristics that make them "hazardous:"

| <u>Waste Streams</u>                                   | <u>Characteristic</u> |
|--|-----------------------|
| battery acid, sodium hydroxide, drain cleaner          | <b>Corrosivity</b>    |
| paint thinner, spent solvents, acetone                 | <b>Ignitability</b>   |
| explosives, cyanides, hypochlorides                    | <b>Reactivity</b>     |
| used antifreeze, heavy metals, photo processing wastes | <b>Toxicity</b>       |

## How is hazardous waste generated?

Many businesses and industries create hazardous wastes as they provide a service or product to their customers. Some products you might use are hazardous from the start, while others pick up contaminants as you use them. *Either way, the waste is generated and subjects the generating facility to a fee.*

A partial list naming some sources of hazardous wastes appears below:

- ✓ **Painting** - paints, solvents, paint and lacquer thinners, empty containers with residuals of hazardous materials, demolition debris
- ✓ **Parts Cleaning** - solvents, acids, caustics, shop rags

- ✓ **Equipment Fueling, Maintenance or Repair** - solvents, used oil, used antifreeze, paints, spilled or leaked gasoline and diesel
- ✓ **Machining** - solvents, coolants, cutting oil, shop rags
- ✓ **Heavy Machinery Operation** - oils, coolants, solvents, shop rags
- ✓ **Printing** - inks, solvents, shop rags
- ✓ **Photo Processing** - silver, developer, fixer
- ✓ **Janitorial and Ground Maintenance** - cleaners, waxes, pesticides, paints
- ✓ **Construction** - adhesives, paints, solvents, empty containers with residuals of hazardous materials
- ✓ **Pesticide Applications** - paints, chemicals, oils solvents
- ✓ **Warehouse Maintenance Activities** - out of date chemicals, residues, spills

The proper *management* of waste (recycling, treatment, or disposal) does not negate the fact that it was *generated* in the first place. *Management* does not exempt you from fee requirements.

## When is the fee due?

Businesses must pay the fee by **June 30, 2002**. We have enclosed a return envelope with a pre-printed return address to help make payment easier. Make sure to enclose the billing statement with your payment or we may be unable to credit your account.

## I know my business did not generate hazardous waste during last year. Do I still have to pay the fee?

No. Only businesses that generate hazardous waste must pay this fee, but you must write to Ecology and request a review of your fee status.

## How do I request a waiver?

If you believe you did not generate hazardous waste in 2001, send a signed letter that includes:

- ✓ a request for a fee waiver;
- ✓ a description of your business activities in sufficient detail that Ecology can evaluate your request; and
- ✓ your telephone number

Attach the billing coupon to your letter and mail it in the return envelope that has been provided. Waiver requests must be mailed by **June 30, 2002**.

## Do I need to call Ecology first?

No. If you know the fee does not apply to you, just send in the written request with your coupon.

Ecology will review your request and contact you with any questions or concerns. If you are not sure if you need to pay the fee, call the toll-free phone number listed in the next section. We will help you make the determination. However, fee waivers will not be granted by phone.

## Who do I contact if I have questions?

Call the Department of Ecology at **1-800-633-7585**. ***Make sure to have the billing coupon in front of you.*** You will need to refer to two important numbers — your Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code and your Department of Revenue (DOR) Tax Identification Number. Both numbers are printed on the coupon, just above your name and address.

The toll-free number places you into a voice answering system designed to connect you with a staff person familiar with your industry. Follow the instructions provided in the box below as they are referred to in the message.

## To Call the Hazardous Waste Education Fee Hotline:

1. Dial 1-800-633-7585. Listen to the introductory message.
2. Press "4" to reach the Hazardous Waste Education Fee menu.
3. Look at your billing coupon. Find your four-digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code printed above your name and address.
4. Look at the first digit of your SIC Code number.

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Is the number 0 or 1?        | <b>PRESS 1</b> |
| Is the 2, 3, 4, or 5?        | <b>PRESS 2</b> |
| Is the number 6, 7, 8, or 9? | <b>PRESS 3</b> |
5. You will be connected with an Ecology staff person. He or she may ask for your nine-digit Department of Revenue (DOR) Tax Identification Number. You can find it above your name and address. The staff person will use this number to verify the status of your fee account.



## Free Help for Businesses

*A-1 Builders is a remodeling contractor in Bellingham that used The Natural Step as the framework for its sustainability program. A-1 reuses and recycles existing building materials from structures demolished at the outset of a project, minimizes the use of new materials, and turns to sustainable, harvested materials whenever possible. It protects the health and safety of its workers by using non-toxic and biodegradable vegetable oil products for concrete forms. A-1 strives to be a model for its community, for example, by using a Honda Insight as its bidding vehicle, using a point-of-use water heater in the office, and xeriscaping its property.*

*Bernard Imports, Inc. is an automotive sales, service, dismantling, and recycling business from Tukwila. It is the first auto dismantler in the Puget Sound region to qualify as an EnvirStar business, earning a 5 star rating and demonstrating how the vehicle salvage process can incorporate environmental protections.*

*Bernard Imports has a policy of immediate containment and draining of vehicle fluids, with complete containment to prevent runoff. Functional parts from vehicles are reused by body shops, service stations, and the general public. They are a leader in the field of auto dismantling and encourage their peers and customers to improve their environmental practices.*

**M**any businesses are unaware that some of the materials they work with may contain hazardous substances that endanger human health and the environment. The Department of Ecology provides information to all businesses to promote pollution prevention and effective waste management.

Ecology maintains regional offices in Bellevue, Lacey, Spokane and Yakima. Toxics reduction professionals in each location provide technical assistance to all Washington businesses, industries and governmental agencies. These experts offer you **non-enforcement** assistance to help with your pollution prevention efforts. They can also explain the requirements of the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*. Many businesses have successfully reduced the amount of waste they generate by working closely with our staff.

### Hands-on Help to Business

Ecology staff can help you by providing:

#### On-site assistance

Toxics reduction specialists are trained to help solve specific waste reduction and waste management issues. They can also help you understand Washington's dangerous waste rules.

#### Phone Consultation

Over the phone, you can get general advice on pollution prevention methods and regulatory compliance.

#### Printed Information

The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program publishes many documents that cover pollution prevention methods for your industry.

For example, 25,000 businesses receive the *Shoptalk* newsletter each quarter. This document covers the latest proven techniques for waste reduction. It also offers sound advice on how you can work within regulatory guidelines. To obtain a free subscription, call (360) 407-6752.

Other documents, like the series *Success Through Waste Reduction, Volumes I-IV*, contain valuable information specifically on pollution prevention. Call Dave Zink at (360) 407-7472 to obtain a copy of these and other publications.

### Training

We sponsor a variety of workshops and seminars to share information about the pollution prevention successes of others. Many of their techniques can work for you!

Last year, Ecology staff conducted 670 site visits, provided 6,102 phone consultations and sponsored 40 workshops attended by 1,350 participants.

### The Benefits of Pollution Prevention

Businesses that use any amount of hazardous materials find that reducing their use of these products benefits the company and also preserves the environment. Preventing pollution:

- ◆ Improves worker health and safety.
- ◆ Increases cost management and savings, particularly in the areas of waste disposal, business administration, regulatory compliance and potential liabilities..
- ◆ Improves process efficiency.
- ◆ Reduces regulatory requirements.

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## Make the call!

Call the regional office nearest you to be connected with a pollution prevention expert.

### Western Washington

#### **Northwest Regional Office - Bellevue**

Main Reception (425) 649-7000  
Dennis Johnson, Supervisor  
Toxics Reduction Unit (425) 649-7040

#### **Southwest Regional Office - Lacey**

Main Reception (360) 407-6300  
Hugh O'Neill, Supervisor  
Toxics Reduction Unit (360) 407-6354

### Eastern Washington

#### **Central Regional Office - Yakima**

Main Reception (509) 575-2490  
Brian Dick, Section Supervisor  
Toxics Reduction Unit (509) 454-7659

#### **Eastern Regional Office - Spokane**

Main Reception (509) 456-2926  
Jim Malm, Supervisor  
Toxics Reduction Unit (509) 456-2725

OR: VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/index.html>

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The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program is responsible for managing and reducing hazardous waste and toxic substances in Washington. If you have a question, please contact a Toxics Reduction Specialist or Hazardous Waste Specialist at your nearest regional office.

The Department of Ecology is an equal opportunity agency and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disabled veteran's status, Vietnam Era veteran's status or sexual orientation.

If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in an alternative format, please contact the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at (360) 407-6700 (voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD).

Regional TDD numbers are:

#### **Central Regional Office**

(509) 454-7673

#### **Northwest Regional Office**

(425) 649-4259

#### **Eastern Regional Office**

(509) 458-2055

#### **Southwest Regional Office**

(360) 407-6306

